

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 59

May 2012

No. 5



Calendar

Fri., Apr. 20	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at the PO lobby		lobby, 7 am– 7:30 pm; Swearing-in party around 9 pm, results by about 9:30 pm, Town Hall
Sat., Apr. 21	GIVES, at Farmer's Market, 9 am–1 pm	Tues., May 8	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm
Sun., Apr. 22	Efross memorial, Town Hall, 1 pm; Weed Warrior Day, Yeandle property (11321 Kenilworth Ave.)	Mon., May 14	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Wed., Apr. 25	Citizens Association meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm; Candidates Forum (see statements, pp 8–9)	Tues., May 15	<i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Thurs., Apr. 26	Happy Hour, Town Hall, 2–4 pm, with guest Andrea Rugh; Kindergarten Orientation, GPES, by appointment, no school for current kindergarten students	Wed., May 16	GPES instrumental music concert, School, 7:30 pm
Fri., Apr. 27	Kindergarten Orientation, GPES (see Apr. 26)	Thurs., May 17	GP Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., Apr. 28	Townwide yard sale, 9 am–1 pm	Fri., May 18	Film Society, <i>Kung Fu Hustle</i> , Town Hall: dinner 7:15 pm, film 8 pm (see p 7)
Sun., Apr. 29	Archives presentation on <i>Bugles</i> past, Town Hall, 3 pm (see p 7)	Sat., May 19	GIVES at Farmer's Market, 9 am–1 pm; Progressive Dinner, 6 pm (see p 4)
Thurs., May 3	GP Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Tues., May 22	GPES Spring Chorus Concert, School, 7:30 pm
Sat., May 5	Plant Swap, 10 am, basketball courts (p 7); GIVES collection, Penn Place lobby, 9 am–1 pm	Wed., May 23	Citizens Association meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm, topic TBD
Sun., May 6	Community Center Grand Opening, 2–4 pm (see p 2)	Fri., May 25	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place lobby
Mon., May 7	Art at Penn Place, Susan Shand Weiss (p 2); Voting, Post Office	Mon., May 28	Memorial Day; <i>no</i> trash collection
		Thurs., May 31	GP Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm

Liberating Natives

The Town Council's April meeting began with the approval of a demolition permit for a house on Cambria that suffered a fire. The residence is not within the historic district, and the Historic Preservation Committee saw no reason to oppose demolition, especially given extensive fire damage.

In a presentation to the Council, Charlie Snyder, with the support of a number of other neighbors, noted that a neighbor is violating

the solid waste ordinance. The house's landlord knows of the problem but has not been able to do anything about it. The Mayor suggested that Charlie and his neighbors immediately write to the landlord, copying the tenant, explaining that the town intends to enforce its laws against the tenant. The town will also look into county safety codes that can be brought to bear. An extensive discussion about the history of the problem, how to document it, and how to proceed, followed.

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Hans Wegner now stood and on behalf of the Council read a proclamation declaring the Council's gratitude to the Mayor for his four dedicated years at the helm (this was Chris Keller's last meeting as Mayor). After listing Chris's many accomplishments, the proclamation praised his grace under fire.

Now a citizen rose to ask for clarification on fees for the use of the town hall. The Mayor replied that the town indeed needs to clarify the rules on the free use of the building.

In his Mayor's Report, Chris described a March 2 meeting with the Garrett Park Elementary School Principal on traffic and safety issues associated with the new larger school, particularly concerns about the Oxford/Kenilworth crosswalk. We won't alter any significant traffic controls, but we have strengthened stripes, and put some new stripes in. We've asked the county for additional signs at Strathmore/Kenilworth, reinforcing the *no turn on red* there.

Weed Warrior Day, sponsored by the Arbo-
retum Committee, POSCO, and the Garrett Park Conservation Trust, will this year take place on Sunday, April 22, at noon. We'll be doing battle with invasives at the Yeandle property, recently donated to the town. Our mission will be to flush out exotic invasives and liberate natives currently besieged by the exotics. Post-hostilities, a rain garden will be established.

The Mayor noted that Pepco recently needed to cut several trees below the power lines to do some work. We cleverly had them cut the trees to the ground and can now replace them (the trees; not Pepco) with other trees. This has saved the town a lot of money.

There were no Councilmember Reports.

In passing the adoption of an operating and capital budget, the Council noted that we are *not* changing the property tax rate—so if your house was assessed lower, your taxes will be reduced accordingly.

Beth Irons updated us on the land use ordinance. "We had hoped to have a revised draft to

discuss tonight, but this has been delayed. There remain some outstanding questions, so we're going to keep working on it." She and Chris Petito will work on a new draft. The Mayor noted that remaining questions have to do with decks.

Your reporter will close by noting that the azaleas in town this spring have been positively hallucinogenic.

Margaret Soltan

Invitation to Opening

The Garrett Park Nursery School invites you to the Garrett Park Community Center Grand Opening Celebration on Sunday, May 6, from 2 to 4 pm.

The Nursery School moved back to the newly renovated Community Center in January, but now that spring is here, we decided it was time to celebrate the successful completion of this remarkable community project. The Grand Opening will be an opportunity to take a tour of the building, reminisce about good times spent there in the past, and make new memories with friends, neighbors, and GPNS alumni. Light refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there!

Art at Penn Place

Beginning May 7, the work of Susan Shand Weiss will be on display at the Penn Place Art Space.

Susan Weiss writes, "I have never felt the need to search out exotic or far-away places in which to paint. What may seem ordinary or familiar becomes extraordinary to me when expressed in pastel, line, or paint. I never tire of the excitement of new ideas and the feeling of discovery each time I begin a painting. I always carry a sketchbook with me. It is like my daily diary. Sometimes the drawings are left as they are, and at other times, they become the inspiration for a new painting. Looking back through my sketchbooks is like visiting old friends, each with a story to tell." The art of Robert LeMar will be on display beginning Monday, June 4.

Treat your family, from Mom and Dad to your graduate, with Sunday Brunch at Strathmore!

Mothers Day: May 13 (Live Music)
Father's Day/Graduation: June 17 (Live Music)

\$36.95 per person
Children ages 6–18 eat for half price
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Seatings at 11:00 am, 12:30 pm, and 2:00 pm

To reserve, call 301-581-5253 or e-mail us at
RAReservations@strathmore.org

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Town Administrator Notes

Town Elections. Elections take place May 7. Please be sure to vote.

Candidates for Mayor and Town Council. At the Garrett Park Citizens Association Nominating Meeting held on March 28, Peter Benjamin was nominated for Mayor; Hans Wegner and Tara Flynn were nominated for Council. Nominations by petition close on April 16, which is after these notes are written, so any more nominations will be announced on Tuesday, April 17.

Prior registration is required. All citizen voters must be on the Montgomery County voter rolls, and noncitizens must be registered with the town.

Absentee ballots. There are two types of absentee ballots: The regular absentee ballots are available from the Town Office until 4 pm on May 2. After May 2, late absentee ballots will be available at the Town Office, and on Election Day from the Judges of Election at the polls. Voters requiring absentee ballots need to file an application. Applications are available from the Town Office or can be downloaded off the town's Web site, garrettpark-md.gov. The Clerk or Judges must receive absentee ballots before the polls close at 7:30 pm on Election Day if they are to be counted.

Hours of voting. Voting hours for the election on Monday, May 7, will be 7 am to 7:30 pm in the Post Office lobby, Penn Place, 4600 Waverly Avenue.

Election reception at Town Hall. The Town Hall bell will be rung before announcement of the election results. The evening will include a swearing-in ceremony and reception, which starts at 9 pm. We expect the results will be available by 9:30 pm, so plan to come and greet the elected Mayor and Councilmembers.

Judges of Election. Brenda Artim, Margaret Goldsborough, and Cliff Tarpy will serve as Judges. The Judges will appoint a number of poll workers to assist them.

Fiscal Year 2013 Budget. At its regular meeting on April 9, the Council adopted the FY 2013 Operating and Capital Budget, copies of which are avail-

able at the Town Office and are posted on the town Web site.

The FY 2013 budget leaves the tax rate unchanged at 21 cents per \$100 of value, and anticipates an 8.1 percent decline in operating revenues to \$999,985 as compared to this year's budget of \$1,088,7010. Transfers from available funds in the town's treasury in the amount of \$1,396 will bring the total budgeted FY 2013 receipts and transfers to \$1,001,380, a decrease of 30.4 percent from this year's budgeted receipts and transfers of \$1,437,120.

These receipts will fund \$942,130 in operating expenses, an increase of \$67,010 (7.7 percent) from FY 2012. The transfer to the capital program is \$57,250, a decrease of \$504,750 from this year's budget. It is expected that when the books are closed on FY 2012 in the late summer, the town will have \$168,353 in unobligated funds in the town's treasury that can be applied to such expenditures as the Council deems appropriate. Total operating reserves will be \$175,000.

It is expected that the Council will review funding options available to the town to return to road reconstruction that was begun in 2009, and present these to the town for consideration in the FY 2014 budget.

Thank you. The entire town staff, Elizabeth, Butch, Frank, and Jose, joins with me to congratulate and thank Chris Keller and Beth Irons for their service to the town. We all have enjoyed working with them, and wish them some relaxation in their retirement from public office.

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

Graduates Wanted

We would like to publish the names of those in town who have made it through their school years (high school and above) unscathed (or minimally scathed, anyway). To make it into the last issue of this printing year, give me a call by June 5 with names, places graduated from, and plans for the future.

Mary Moyer

GOLDSBOROUGH

Glynn

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A Town Mystery

Early this March, on several evenings, Ida Sullivan reports, "I heard noises behind my home. It sounded to me like the clacking of antlers. I saw nothing. Then, one fine day, I noticed a large hole and many remnants of black corrugated plastic drainage pipe in the vicinity of the hole. Several savants came by to view the phenomenon. The neighboring children, ages eight and under, took interest in the mysterious nature of all this, and they assembled the following clues and possible assumptions."

The Mysterious Backyard Beast

A beast is making holes in Ida's backyard. It comes after dark. It dug a large hole, measuring 14 inches wide by 12 inches high by 16 inches deep, under the patio. We found lots of white fur and some beige. The beast has sharp teeth and claws because it chewed up and shredded two sections of black drainage pipe—about five feet in length all together. It left paw prints with four claw holes and two pads. Mae hopes the beast won't hurt her sparkle shoes. The beast left handfuls of cream-colored and light brown fur. Some

think it's a wolf; some a fox; some a coyote; some a dog. We don't know. We would like to put up cameras—on the porch, in the trees, and in the grass. Three grown-ups have seen a white thing. They describe it as larger than a German shepherd, looking like a wolf, having a long mouth, beautiful fur, and a fluffy tail.

Have you seen this animal? Can you help us identify the mysterious backyard beast? Please send us your suggestions.

Respectfully submitted by Jason, Matthew, Mae, Seth, and Jeffrey



Progressive Dinner, May 19

Join your neighbors for this fun annual event! Complete the registration form below.

I/we would like to participate in the 2012 Progressive Dinner on Saturday, May 19.

Name(s): _____Address: _____

Phone: _____Contact e-mail: _____

Choose your top three preferences from the following 10 options, using 1, 2, and 3 to indicate first, second, and third choices. (You will receive confirmation after May 2.)

- Be a host!**
- _____ Host appetizers!
Kick off the evening by hosting your neighbors for appetizers. Expect approx. 100 people. Food, wine, sparkling water, paper, and plastic (if needed) are provided, and we help with cleanup! This can be held outdoors (in good weather) or indoors (porches work, too!)

_____ Host salad / provide bread at my home
(for 10 to 16)

_____ Host main course / provide bread at my home
(for 8 to 14)

_____ Host vegetarian main course / provide bread
at my home (for 10 to 12)

_____ Host dessert at my home (for about 30 to 50);
two or three homes needed. Paper and plastic
provided.

Interested in hosting a course but can accommodate
a different number of guests? Please indicate how
many: _____

- Provide a course!**
- _____ Provide appetizer (for 16 to 20)

_____ Provide salad (for 12 to 16)

_____ Provide meat main course (for 10 to 12)

_____ Provide vegetarian main course (for 10 to 12)

_____ Provide dessert (for 16 to 20)

Special dietary needs? (Vegetarian, vegan, allergies, other)
Please list: _____

Interested in volunteering to coordinate this event?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Cost: \$7.50 per person / \$15 per couple

Please return form to
Garrett Park Progressive Dinner/GP Women's Club
Box 494,
Garrett Park, MD 20896

Make checks payable to Garrett Park Women's Club.

Questions? Jean Horan

Deadline for registration: **Wednesday, May 2,**
please!

Host houses receive wine and sparkling water. Depending on the number of hosts and the size of host homes, you may be asked to provide bread or other starch.

At the March 28 meeting, the Citizens Association accepted nominations for the upcoming May 7 town elections. Additionally we had a terrific speaker from the Maryland Master Gardeners program. Paula Jean Hallberg discussed native plants. In case you missed it, here are just two of some terrific resources that she recommended:

- On April 25, the Citizens Association will hold the annual Candidates' Forum. Candidates for the two Town Council seats and the Mayor position will be on hand to discuss their views on issues important to the citizens of Garrett Park.

Annual Dues. The Citizens Association 2012 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$20 per family. Thank

Lori Conlan

The young people listed below are available to perform the tasks shown. Remember, the jobs list is maintained in the Town Office, so you can always call the town staff at 301-933-7488, either to get a referral or to put yourself on the list to be contacted. Please clip and save!

Please see the list in the printed *Bugle* or call the Town Office. It is the *Bugle's* policy not to include private telephone numbers, private e-mail addresses, or names of minor children in the *e-Bugle*.

An advertisement for Greensail Realty. The background is a gradient of orange and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. In the foreground, there is a white silhouette of a sailboat on the left and a row of white houses with gabled roofs on the right. The text is centered in the upper half of the image. It starts with 'Ask me about the' in a medium-sized sans-serif font, followed by 'GREENSAIL' in a large, bold, sans-serif font, and 'ADVANTAGE' in a slightly smaller bold sans-serif font. A small 'TM' trademark symbol is to the right of 'ADVANTAGE'. Below this, the website 'www.greensailrealty.com' is written in a medium-sized sans-serif font. At the bottom left, there is a logo consisting of a stylized sailboat icon above the text 'GREENSAIL REALTY™'. At the bottom right, there are four logos in a row: 'EcoBroker CERTIFIED' (with 'EcoBroker' in bold and 'CERTIFIED' in all caps), a 'green' logo with a leaf icon and the text 'With Green Designation', a 'REALTOR' logo with a house icon and the text 'Member', and a 'REALTOR' logo with a stylized 'R' icon and the text 'Member'.

5

- ♪ The ailment du jour in town several weeks ago was the passing of kidney stones. Four town residents all suffered the same dread malady. Is there something in the water?
- ♪ From the PO: Pay your box rent promptly, or your box will probably be rented out to another family. A waiting list has been growing. But at least all the phone books have been picked up or done away with.
- ♪ Will Almy, who has been cooking at the Mitsitam Café at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian on the Mall, has been selected to be one of four chefs to represent the U.S. in a cooking competition in Tasmania. Sixty chefs from 15 countries will be competing. The first event is the MLA Black Box Culinary Challenge in Hobart, Tasmania, on May 22 and 23, with a second competition, "Savour Tasmania," on May 25 and 26.
- ♪ Even though as we go to press it looks like it will be an uncontested election, please vote on May 7. This will ensure that you will be on the voting lists for the November General Election.
- ♪ The new curbing in town sure looks nice. Can't wait for the first real heavy rain.

Certificate of Appreciation

On April 9, as Chris Keller presided over the last Council meeting of his two terms (four years in all) as Mayor of Garrett Park, the Councilmembers presented him with a framed certificate of appreciation to express their thanks and congratulations. The text of the certificate, given below, highlighted Mayor Keller's many accomplishments for and service to the town. Chris also served as a Councilmember from 1996 to 2006.

We, the undersigned members of this Town Council, speaking for the town of Garrett Park, wish to express with this declaration our sincere gratitude to Mayor Chris Keller, for the four years of exceptional service he has rendered to the town of Garrett Park.

Your term of service has been highlighted by some of the most demanding and difficult issues in the town's history. You have faced all challenges with civility, professionalism, and fairness. Your service has been marked by a spirit of cooperation, by moderation during times of stress, by inclusiveness at times of division, and by principled action when we were at odds. All of this takes time, and you have been willing to put in countless hours to try to keep the town and the Council informed on, and engaged in, the issues.

Your leadership has shown the way for the town to—

- Acquire the Garrett Park Community Center from the Montgomery County Parks Department and thereby guarantee the continued existence of the Garrett Park Cooperative Nursery School.
- Promote the town's efforts in tree care and replacement to advance the health and beauty of the Garrett Park Arboretum.
- Rebuild sidewalks, curbs, and driveway aprons along Kenilworth Avenue and Oxford Street to make town walkways safer for our children on the way to and from school.
- Support the Archives Committee and encourage its research and maintenance of the records and memorabilia of the town's history.

- Organize the town's work on the White Flint Sector Plan within the scope of the White Flint Community Coalition to make sure the interests of the community were heard and considered.
- Establish the Garrett Park Land Use Task Force to undertake a review of the town's zoning ordinance and make recommendations to the town of proposed changes, if any.
- Lead the rewrite and adoption of new language to more clearly define the rules for our setback ordinance so as to be more easily understood and compatible with those used by Montgomery County.
- Represent the town's interests during and after the rebuilding of the Garrett Park Elementary School.
- Guide the town through some of the most difficult times during an economic downturn and resulting budget reductions while maintaining the high quality services we have come to expect from the town.

On the occasion of your last Town Council meeting, April 9, 2012, we herewith extend our grateful appreciation for your dedicated service to the town of Garrett Park.

Elizabeth Irons, Jack Mandel, Christopher
Petito, Philip Schulp, Hans Wegner

David Altar
David.Altar1@gmail.com

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"Serving Garrett Park since 2010"

Scouting for Books

Thanks to the generous donations of our neighbors and the great effort of Cub Scouts from Garrett Park Pack 521 (sites.google.com/a/cspack521.org/pack521), Scouting for Books was a big success!

On March 10, Scouts from Garrett Park Pack 521 picked up more than 1,020 used books from the front porches of our community. These books go to schools and libraries in developing countries around the world; volunteers from the World Bank Book Project pack and ship the books. We met our initial goal of 10,000 books by collecting a total of 10,140 books since fall 2007.

If you still have more books to donate, this initiative runs year round as we have a plastic bin below the bulletin board in the Post Office. For more information, please contact Gabriela De La Garza (see your Garrett Park directory) or visit go.worldbank.org/KK3Y3HZ5A0.

Thank you for your contribution!

Remembrance of *Bugles* Past

On Sunday, April 29, at 3 pm in the Town Hall, participate in a panel discussion of discoveries made gleaning through old *Bugles*—both how the town has changed and how it hasn't. Although we had a similar presentation last spring, there is plenty more to cover, and some of the panel is new this time. So, especially if you missed last year's (but even if you didn't), come join the fun. (Cookies are predicted.)

Film Society Offers Comic Mayhem

The Town Hall will be ablaze with laughter and agog with the intentional zaniness during the upcoming showing of *Kung Fu Hustle*, on Friday, May 18, at 8 pm. This Garrett Park Film Society event, directed by and starring international superstar Stephen Chow, blends special effects, martial arts, and the Looney Tunes to hilarious effect. It is a humorous, special-effects-filled, action-packed martial arts epic set in early '40s China about a bumbling thief, Sing (Stephen Chow), and his desire to be the toughest member of the dreaded gangster hit squad known as The Axe Gang. When Sing attempts to rob a crowded run-down apartment complex known as Pig Sty Alley, the locals begin to defend themselves with some high-flying kung fu skills, and a war erupts between the local masters and the axe-wielding gang. *Kung Fu Hustle* set box-office records across Asia during its December 2004 release, features fight choreography by legendary masters of martial arts cinema and Buster Keaton-ish comedy with its precision timing. The film merrily flouts the laws of time and physics. Teeth fly upward in slo-mo; then a Road Runner-style chase zips by

The Great Annual Plant Swap

Brought to you by the Women's Club!

When: Saturday, May 5, from 10 am till all the plants are gone.

Where: Penn Place basketball court

How: Bring some "pass along" plants from your garden, and take home some new and interesting specimens from your neighbors' gardens. Please label your donation with plant name, growing conditions, color etc.

Questions? Kay Hager (kay.hager@longandfoster.com)

Participate in the Musicale!

The annual Garrett Park musicale raises funds for a music scholarship for a 5th grade student at Garrett Park Elementary School. The late Ilah Gieser of Garrett Park, in a gesture of generosity, conceived the idea of an annual \$1,000 scholarship to fund a year's private lessons for a worthy young musician in the local community. To raise money for the scholarship, we hold a musicale every spring to showcase a rich variety of vocal and instrumental talent.

The next musicale will be held on Sunday, June 3, at 4 pm. If you'd like to play or sing on the program, please contact Sue Petito. We showcase all accomplishments! Interested in singing in a small chorus? The Town Singers always welcome new and returning voices. It's fun and supports the next generation of music-makers. Come join us!

in superspeedy-mo. The Pig Sty denizens have the resilience of Warner Bros. cartoon characters: lips, throats, bosoms expand to gargantuan size and then snap back. Punctuating the mayhem are sound effects (mooing, clucking, cat mewls, toad croaks) worthy of a Spike Jones symphony.

If you're just looking for a lot of action and a little heart, *Hustle* has that too, plus a subplot that reunites Sing with the love his youth. And watch for the sly homages to Western action films. Moviemaking doesn't get much smarter, funnier, handsomer, better than this. The film is R rated, so please check it out online before bringing young children, though teens will love it (as will you)!

Of course, also plan to join us before the film at 7:15 pm for a great dinner (Chinese, anyone?). Dinner will probably be \$8 to \$10, plus drinks. The film is free to GP Film Society members. For those of you not members, it'll set you back a measly \$5 per person or \$10 for your family. Hope to see you on May 18!

Candidates' Statements

Peter Benjamin, candidate for Mayor

I love Garrett Park. It has its own special character, welcoming people, and a sense of community in the amorphous mass of Montgomery County. I have appreciated the opportunity over the years I have lived here to make a difference in what this town is and what it is becoming. Since our town was founded, it has been growing and changing, and the challenge for us is to preserve its special character as we evolve. Alison Pearce put it so eloquently recently when she nominated me for mayor. She said that what I have done in the past (and hope to do in the future) as a leader of our community is to make sure that each person is heard and respected as we discuss the paths we may take in changing our town, and to find common ground among us for the decisions we make.

I am pleased to have been a facilitator in several of the major changes we have had in Garrett Park during the years I was mayor in the past. Those include the renovation of our historic town center, Penn Place; the reconstruction of Strathmore Avenue to enhance pedestrian safety and calm traffic; and the replacement of the street lights throughout the town. We had an open and broadly participatory process in developing each of those projects. Not everyone was happy that we were considering these changes, and some disagreed with elements of the decisions, but I would venture to say that most of us today are comfortable with the results. During my previous terms as mayor we also rewrote substantial portions of the Town Charter, developed a capital inventory and program plan, and changed the way we budget and administer our finances. I am not afraid of change, but I believe it must reflect the wishes of our residents and be consistent with the character of our town.

I have lived in Garrett Park since 1988, and married my wife Kathy in our house in 1989. I have been co-chair of the Citizens Association, a Town Councilmember, and mayor. I took a break from Garrett Park leadership to be a member and chair of the Metro Board of Directors and, having completed that, would like to return to making a difference in a town that is so special to me and, I hope, to many of you. I look forward to this opportunity to work with you in making Garrett Park an even better place for our children and grandchildren.

Tara Flynn, candidate for Town Council

Since 2003, I have lived on Kenilworth Avenue, in the blue house across the street from Town Hall. My husband Brad Christmas and I moved here from Kensington Parkwood with our children Charlie (then three) and Ellie (then one). Our daughter Cora joined us in 2004. I have lived in the DC area for 20 years. I grew up in Guil-

derland, New York (just outside of Albany), and graduated from the University of Rochester and the University of Buffalo School of Law.

I love living in Garrett Park. Our move here was a wonderful decision for our family. Not only did we love our new home and its (comparatively) flat lawn, we felt immediately part of a close knit community. One of the reasons we felt so connected was because our children attended the Garrett Park Nursery School. We met so many welcoming people at the school, and as a co-op, we worked side-by-side with those families, strengthening those connections. When we learned in 2007 that the Parks Department was intending to transfer or demolish the Community Center building, home of the Nursery School for over 50 years, I joined the effort to "Save Our School." In 2009, my youngest was set to move on to kindergarten, but by that time, I was very involved in the effort to save the Community Center and the Garrett Park Nursery School. So I agreed to serve on the Board of the Nursery School in a newly created position, Community Liaison.

For the past three years, I have served in that capacity and am extremely proud of what we were able to accomplish. The proof is in the beautifully renovated Community Center building, now owned by the town of Garrett Park and leased to the Nursery School. Being part of the collaborative effort that brought about this wonderful result is one of the most personally gratifying experiences of my life. My term on the Nursery School Board ends this month—thus formally ending my nine years of involvement with the Garrett Park Nursery School.

I gained a good bit of insight into the workings of the town, county, and state government through my involvement with the Community Center Project. I hope that I will be given the opportunity to put those insights to good use on the Town Council. For the past year, I have served on the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board, and through that process, I receive regular updates concerning the White Flint development plans. I believe that the development of the surrounding area creates some wonderful possibilities but also some potential threats to our quality of life. Thanks to the involvement of John King and other town residents, Garrett Park has had a voice in the process. Going forward, the town will need to continue to monitor and, when appropriate, weigh in on development plans, especially as they impact traffic, our schools, or anything else that might adversely impact us all.

The Town Council is currently involved in adopting some of the Land Use Task Force's recommendations, including revising the town's zoning ordinance. The remaining Task Force recommendations deserve attention, as well.

Should I be elected, I hope that my legal skills and experience and, if necessary, my training as a mediator would benefit the process.

I ask for your vote on May 7 and look forward to getting to know folks I don't yet know. Between soccer games and Girl Scout camping trips, I hope to be outside the Post Office for at least some time on upcoming Saturday mornings. If I don't catch you (and even if I do), I hope you will stop me to chat if you see me out walking our big dog Chico. (I am also available by phone and e-mail, of course!)

Hans Wegner, candidate for Town Council

My philosophy as a Councilmember is to work for consensus, to find the common ground, and to work cooperatively with the others on the Council. I believe that, even on difficult issues, if we ask the right questions and learn the facts, solutions will rise to the surface so that reasonable people can agree upon the wisest course of action. I try to be conscientious about doing my homework and learning the facts on any issue in order to make well-informed decisions.

I really appreciate the support of the residents of Garrett Park who understand that Town Councilmembers and the Mayor are volunteers who are all trying their best to balance the diverse and often competing needs of residents (not to mention our families and our jobs) with the time and money available to meet those needs. I take my role on the Council seriously, and I am willing to work hard to make sure I do what is best for the town. I do not bring an agenda to my role on the Council. What I try to bring is an open mind and a willingness to listen and learn, to find workable and cost-effective solutions.

My areas of responsibility on the Council for the past two years have been Strathmore Avenue, town streets, sidewalks & lights, town storm

drains, and snow and trash removal. The tasks I see facing the next Council are as follows:

- Restoring town storm drains on lower Kenilworth and Shelley Court, where our failing drains have caused sinkholes and washouts on private property. After much planning, I am very happy to say that both are slated for repair by July of this year.
- Managing the town's obligations at a time when resources have declined. We have all seen and appreciate the recent reductions in our property assessments, but with that comes a reduction in the town's revenues, possibly by as much as 12 percent in 2013.
- Addressing our priorities for maintaining our common assets (streets, buildings, town equipment, street lights, parks, etc.), many of which are in need of some level of restoration, maintenance, or repair. All of these are part of the larger, more comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that has been set aside for the past three years due to lack of resources.

I am running for Council because—

- I would like to get the CIP back on track. I am fiscally responsible and committed to setting priorities so we can allocate our scarce resources wisely to protect town assets.
- I want to make sure Garrett Park continues to be a place of community, civility, and respect for each other's differences.
- I want to perpetuate the strong sense of community and neighborliness that we enjoy as residents of Garrett Park. I know that these unique qualities are not an accident, but rather, they are the result of hard work by many members of our community.

I would appreciate your support on May 7. Thank you.

Letter from the Mayor

In my last *Bugle* letter as mayor, I want to thank the many volunteers who devote time, energy, and skills to the betterment of Garrett Park. We are fortunate in the generosity of those who make themselves available on committees and in so many other ways. An important avenue of volunteer participation in town is elective office. I urge you to *vote* in the election on May 7 to elect a new mayor and two members to the Town Council. At this time, it appears that it will be an uncontested election. Even if that proves to be the case, it doesn't mean that you should skip voting. The candidates have indicated their willingness to serve the town; please register your appreciation by voting. We owe a debt of thanks to all the candidates who have volunteered to run for office: Peter Benjamin for mayor and, for Town Council, Tara Flynn and incumbent Hans Wegner.

Tara is a "newcomer" only to the elective aspect of volunteering; she was among the Nursery School workers most instrumental in helping the town obtain the Community Center and then to realize its complete renovation. Handling many details of that project, together with her commitment to all aspects of town life, makes Tara superbly qualified to serve on the Council. Hans has been a stalwart of the Council in many ways, including his ongoing efforts to improve the town's infrastructure. Every time we walk along Strathmore Avenue—with its maturing tree canopy that provides exactly the "traffic calming" effect he envisioned—we should thank Hans for the dedication that he brought to that project, and which he continues to apply to all endeavors in town. I have been pleased to work with Peter in many capacities over the years; his superb organization, clear thinking, and dedication to seeing

things through to completion will stand the town in good stead. Being an elected official is a significant commitment of time and resources. Let's do our part by voting on May 7.

We all offer a hearty note of appreciation to the retiring member of the Council, Beth Irons. We are grateful for her service to the town. Beth worked in many areas, and we are particularly indebted to her for guiding the town's land use initiatives in recent years. I have been pleased to work with Beth, Hans, and continuing Councilmembers Jack Mandel, Chris Petito, and Phil Schulp. Individually and collectively, they have the best interests of the town always at the forefront of their consideration.

As you have undoubtedly observed, many recent improvements to the town's infrastructure—sidewalks, curbs and gutters, driveway aprons, and replacement tree planting—are finished. The town moves now to less visible but equally important storm water drainage repairs. These long-planned projects, on north Kenilworth and Shelley Court, have been delayed by a variety of factors, including obtaining the large number of easements required by extensive projects of this sort, as well as changes to the engineering of the new systems. With continued cooperation from the weather, these projects will be completed before heavy rains.

Many residents have remarked on the more attractive streetscape that results from the curb/gutter construction and tree replacement, and have asked when similar improvements can be installed on their streets. The answer to that question will turn, in large part, on policy decisions that the new Mayor and Council will address over the coming year. Historically, Garrett Park has undertaken capital improvements on a piecemeal basis, using pay-as-you-go financing. For a small municipality, this means accumulating funds over a period of time and then engaging in occasional isolated projects. Depending on the

larger financial context, the purchasing power of accumulated money may have eroded, limiting how much work the town can do. Recent cutbacks of 90 percent in money transferred to municipalities from highway user funds (gas taxes) exacerbate the problem. I hope that the town will seriously consider long-term financing for remaining street capital improvements, which would permit economies of scale and other benefits that flow from completing the work simultaneously rather than piecemeal. Please consider the issue and make your views known to the Mayor and Council.

A personal note (leading to a municipal issue!): Henri and I recently adopted Lily, a sweet rescue mutt. Having a young dog is a terrific way for an elected official to stay in touch—it gets you out looking at the "infrastructure" at ground level, and you meet fellow residents in a whole new context. Garrett Park has always been pet-friendly, and both we and our new arrival are glad to enjoy the town's great walking opportunities. All of us, however, need to be mindful of picking up after our pets. It's not just an aesthetic issue; it's a public health concern—especially in coming weeks as more youngsters are playing outside. The town supplies waste bags and trash cans; please use them (and let the Town Office know if the supply has run out).

Another safety issue is visibility at corners for pedestrians and drivers. As I wrote in July 2010: "... the town would like to work with residents to improve walking safety in those areas without sidewalks. Where people walk in the street, safety and ease of walking can be enhanced by removing overgrowth that spills into the roadway, thus narrowing the space available to be shared by cars and pedestrians. Similarly, overgrowth near corners can obstruct sight lines, creating danger for both pedestrians and drivers..." The town has worked with residents at four intersections to improve sightlines, and with other homeowners to remove overgrowth that narrows the roadway. I will urge my successor to continue this initiative, and I hope that residents will cooperate in this effort to improve safety for all.

Finally, I want to express my profound thanks to all town residents for affording me the opportunity to be your mayor for the past four years. The office has its challenges, but the satisfactions always far outweigh them. I am grateful for your support over the years.

Chris Keller

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